United Nations S/PV.3749

Security Council

Fifty-second Year

Provisional

3749th Meeting

Tuesday, 11 March 1997, 12.50 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Wlosowicz	(Poland)
Members:	Chile	Mr. Eguiguren
	China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
	Costa Rica	Ms. Inceira
	Egypt	Mr. Abdel Aziz
	France	Mr. Ladsous
	Guinea-Bissau	Mr. Cabral
	Japan	Mr. Konishi
	Kenya	Mr. Mahugu
	Portugal	Mr. Brito
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Park
	Russian Federation	Mr. Fedotov
	Sweden	Mr. Osvald
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Gomersall
	United States of America	Mr. Rosenstock

Agenda

The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Letter dated 7 March 1997 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1997/201)

Letter dated 7 March 1997 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1997/204)

97-85230 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 12.50 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Letter dated 7 March 1997 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1997/201)

Letter dated 7 March 1997 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1997/204)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina in which she requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mrs. Kalajdzisalihović (Bosnia and Herzegovina) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the letter dated 7 March 1997 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council, conveying the communication dated 7 March 1997 which he received from the Principal Deputy High Representative for the Implementation of the Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina, document S/1997/201, and the letter dated 7 March 1997 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council, attaching the executive summary and key findings of the report prepared by the International Police Task Force (IPTF) pursuant to the decisions on Mostar of 12 February 1997, document S/1997/204.

I should like to draw the attention of the members of the Council to documents S/1997/140 and S/1997/183, which contain the texts of letters dated 17 February and 3 March 1997, respectively, from the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council has considered the letter of 7 March 1997, and its annex, from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council concerning the incident on 10 February 1997 involving a violent assault against a group of civilians attempting to visit a graveyard in West Mostar in the presence of the United Nations International Police Task Force (UN-IPTF), in which one person died and others were wounded (S/1997/201).

"The Security Council notes that the participants in the meeting on 12 February 1997 referred to in the letter from the Secretary-General agreed, *inter alia*, to request the UN-IPTF to conduct an investigation into that incident, to accept and endorse that report in full, and to draw the necessary conclusions concerning the arrest, bringing to trial and dismissal from office of those found responsible for instigating or participating in violent acts.

"The Security Council fully supports the conclusions drawn from the UN-IPTF report by the Office of the High Representative and fully supported by the UN-IPTF, the Commander of the Stabilization Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the members of the Contact Group.

"The Security Council strongly condemns the involvement by West Mostar police officers in the violent assault on 10 February 1997 as referred to in the UN-IPTF report annexed to the letter from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council of 7 March 1997 (S/1997/204).

"The Security Council also condemns the failure of the local police to provide protection to civilians subject to inter-ethnic attacks which occurred throughout Mostar both before and after the

incident on 10 February 1997, and stresses the importance it attaches to preventing such incidents in the future.

"The Security Council takes note of the announced suspension of some of the police officers identified in the UN-IPTF report but remains deeply concerned by the failure to date of the responsible authorities to take all the necessary steps to implement the conclusions drawn from that report. It strongly condemns attempts by those authorities to place conditions upon the arrest and prosecution of the police officers identified in the UN-IPTF report as having fired upon the group of civilians.

"The Security Council demands that the responsible authorities, notably in West Mostar, immediately implement the conclusions drawn from the UN-IPTF report, and in particular suspend all relevant police officers and arrest and prosecute them without further delay. It also calls upon the responsible authorities to investigate all police officers involved in the incident.

"The Security Council requests the Secretary-General to keep it informed of the situation. It will remain actively seized of the matter."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/1997/12.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on the agenda.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.